

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /060 W
----- 084084 /43

O P 211820Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6352
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 1125

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PIMT MP
SUBJECT: MAURITIAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: MAURITIAN MILITANT
MOVEMENT WINS, POSSIBLY A MAJORITY

REF: PORT LOUIS 1124

1. MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT MEDIA ANNOUNCED, AS OF 2100 HOURS LOCAL,
THAT MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM) HAD WON 29 SEATS,
INDEPENDENCE PARTY (IP) 20 SEATS, AND MAURITIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
PARTY (PMSD) 7 SEATS. COUNT WAS SUSPENDED UNTIL TOMORROW IN
ONE DISTRICT (RAMGOOLAM'S), WHERE IP HAS BEEN LEADING STRONGLY
FOR ALL THREE SEATS, AND IN ANOTHER DISTRICT WHERE A RECOUNT
HAS BEEN DEMANDED BUT WHICH REPORTED TWO IP SEATS AND ONE MMM
SEAT. IF THERE IS NO CHANGE AFTER ABOVE TWO DISTRICTS ARE
RESOLVED, FINAL DIVISION FOR 62 SEATS DECIDED TODAY WILL BE:

MMM 30 SEATS
IP 25 SEATS
PMSD 7 SEATS

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2. RAMGOOLAM IS SURE TO WIN HIS SEAT. BERENGER OF MMM ENDED UP
FIRST IN HIS DISTRICT AFTER A VERY CLOSE RACE WHICH GAVE
OTHER TWO SEATS TO THE IP. ELEVEN MINISTERS IN THE LAST
GOVERNMENT LOST THEIR SEATS, INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER WALTER,
JAGATSINGH, B. GHURBURRUN, MOHAMED, BUNDHUN, JAYPAL, POONOOSAMY,
RAULT, MODUN, AH CHUEN, CHAPERON. AT LEAST 33 SITTING MEMBERS

WHO RAN, INCLUDING DEPUTY SPEAKER GUJADHUR, LOST THEIR SEATS. PMSD LEADER DUVAL MET A HUMILIATING DEFEAT. JUGNAUTH, MMM PRESIDENT AND SHADOW PRIME MINISTER, SQUEAKED IN. BOOLELL AND RINGADOO OF LABOR PARTY WERE AMONG VERY FEW PARTY OLD-TIMERS WHO WERE RETURNED. NEW ASSEMBLY WILL BE MOSTLY NEW FACES.

3. WHO WILL FORM NEW GOVERNMENT AND HOW REMAINS PROBLEMATIC. MMM IS VERY CLOSE TO AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY VICTORY. ELECTORAL COMMISSION WILL PROCEED TOMORROW, AND FOLLOWING DAY IF NECESSARY, TO ALLOCATE EIGHT "BEST LOSER" SEATS, BUT ACCORDING TO CONSTITUTION THEY ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO CHANGE THE ELECTORAL RESULT, I.E., TURN A WINNING PARTY INTO A LOSER OR VICE VERSA. ALL WE CAN SAY AT THIS POINT IS THAT IF MMM FAILS TO WIN AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY, THERE WILL BE A GREAT DEAL OF MANEUVERING IN COMING DAYS. IF MMM WINS A MAJORITY THERE MAY ALSO BE A LOT OF MANEUVERING. KEELEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, PARTY PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTL01125
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760468-0464
From: PORT LOUIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761224/aaaaaupu.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PORT LOUIS 1124
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAURITIAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT WINS, POSSIBLY A MAJORITY
TAGS: PINT, MP, MMM, (RAMGOOLAM, SEEWOOSAGUR), (BERENGER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006